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From the Director Arnie Olsen

The Montana Historical Society is all about how to make the past more accessible to people in the future. That's the idea behind the Society's new resource umbrella, known as "The History Research Center." The History Research Center streamlines and coordinates the already outstanding services offered by the Society's library, document archives, and photograph archives. The museum program, which serves researchers interested in our art and material culture collection, remains a separate program.

As many of you know, budget cuts have forced the Research Center and Montana's Museum to close on Mondays. At the same time, requests for research assistance, in part due to the internet, have continued to increase dramatically. What it boils down to is that we are serving more people in a shorter period of time with fewer staff and resources.

We are responding to this increased pressure by operating as efficiently as possible, and our success can be credited to members of the Research Center staff, who have a strong commitment to serving all of the Center's patrons—from genealogists and students working on school projects to nationally known historians, authors, and filmmakers.

We are also taking steps to make it easier for researchers to access materials. For example, we are currently working on providing access to catalogs of our collections through the worldwide web. Our goal is to have a good portion of our catalogs, including our photograph catalog, online by this time next year.

The Society is known nationally as one of the best research facilities in the West, featuring a rich treasury of both Montana history and western history. By combining our efforts into the History Research Center approach, we have tried to optimize the efficiency of our current facilities and resources.

Eventually we hope to build a new facility that will allow us to consolidate all of our research services in a single area. Currently, our photograph archives, document archives, and library are housed on three separate floors of the Society building, with additional archives storage in a warehouse four miles away. We are literally bursting at the seams. A new facility will allow us to offer our customers what is known in the business world as one-stop shopping. In the meantime, however, we are determined to work within budget and space constraints to make it easy for our customers to access our collections.

When in Helena, we hope you stop by and take advantage of what we proudly call our History Research Center. If you can't visit in person, you can e-mail the History Research Center at mhslibrary@state.mt.us, or call us at 406-444-2681, and we'll help you find out more about Montana and the West.

Society Starts New Thursday Night Series

Beginning January 29, history enthusiasts can be certain that something interesting will be happening at the Montana Historical Society every Thursday night.

The Society will offer weekly Thursday evening programs, ranging from lectures and workshops to tours and a monthly book discussion group. Led by Charlene Porsild, Director of the Society's History Research Center, and archivist Ellie Arguimbau, this winter's two workshops will focus on researching family history. Other Thursday night events will feature lectures on Montana's social, ethnic, and architectural history.

As part of the Thursday night series, the Society will also be launching "Pages in History: A Monthly Book Discussion." "Pages in History" participants will gather the last Thursday of each month to explore Montana's wealth of historical literature. The series will begin with a discussion of Mildred Walker's *Winter Wheat*, the book chosen by the Montana Center for the Book for the "One Book Montana" program. At an organizational meeting on January 29, people will be able to pick up copies of *Winter Wheat* and learn more about the idea behind "Pages in History." The first discussion will be held on February 26. Everyone is welcome to attend—whether for only one discussion or the entire series.

In addition to attending our evening programs, everyone is invited to tour Montana's Museum and browse the merchandise in the Museum Store until 8:00 p.m. each Thursday. The Society decided to open Thursday evenings last summer in an effort to make Montana's Museum more accessible to those who were otherwise occupied during the day. Admission to Thursday evening programs is free for everyone. Admission to the museum is free to members and \$3 per adult and \$1 per child for nonmembers.

Four New National Register Properties Listed

One of the most effective tools to raise awareness of the importance of place to our history, the National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of those cultural resources deemed worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register includes districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant to our collective heritage.

Four Montana properties were recently listed in the National Register. The **First United Methodist Church Parsonage** in Great Falls was listed for its association with the evangelical movements of the Methodist Church in Montana, the church's role in the patterns of settlement in the area, and as the only official residence of "Brother Van," the revered traveling preacher who established churches throughout the state.

The **Reid Residence** at 526 East Front Street in Missoula was listed for its significant association with Queen Anne architecture, as employed within the context of Missoula's residential development between 1880 and 1912.



The Dearborn River High Bridge near Augusta is one of four Montana properties recently listed on the National Register. Photo by Kristi Hagner.

An excellent example of a hipped roof Bungalow-style residence, the recently listed **Thomas and Beulah Shore Residence** at 602 South Strevell Avenue in Miles City is associated with the early twentieth-century commercial and residential expansion of Miles City as a result of the homestead boom.

The **Dearborn River High Bridge** near Augusta is a rare example of a pin-connected, half-deck, Pratt truss bridge. It may be the only remaining example of this type of bridge in the United States. The bridge gains additional significance for its association with Montana's first great period of modern bridge building.

In addition to the recognition that listing provides, registered properties are afforded a measure of protection from projects that are funded, licensed, or executed by the federal government. National Register properties are eligible for historic markers, through Montana's National Register Sign Program, and may also be eligible for historic preservation tax incentives.

History Happenings

The Museum/Education Division of the Society recently partnered with the Albertson's grocery store chain to **raise money for education and public programs**. When Albertson's shoppers present their Community Partners card at any Albertson's store nationwide, two percent of their total purchases will go into a fund set aside for the Montana Historical Society. We have the opportunity to raise \$1,800 per quarter with this program. If you or someone you know shops at Albertson's and would like to participate, please contact Deb Mitchell at 406-444-4789 or email at dmitchell@state.mt.us to receive a card.

Barbara Pepper Rotness joined the Research Center team as the Library Technician on January 5. A long-time employee of the Montana State Library, Barbara holds a B.S. from Virginia Commonwealth University. She replaces Mary Ellen Tunks, who left the program in October.

Society webmaster Damon Murdo has recently added **MHS/SHPO Planning Bulletin # 21, "Consulting with Montana SHPO,"** to our website. This planning bulletin provides basic information and advice on many topics ranging from how to initiate a consultation under the National Historic Preservation and State Antiquities acts to mitigation options in adverse effect findings. Survey report format, site identification, numbering procedures, and numerous forms used in cultural resource management are provided as appendices and/or interactive links. See www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/shpo/archaeology/consultingwith.asp. Murdo also recently updated the SHPO Service Directory, which can be found at www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/shpo/servicesdir.asp.

The **Montana State Historical Records Advisory Board**, chaired by Society staff member Molly Kruckenberg, received administrative funding from the the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for the second year in a row. This funding will help cover operating expenses as well as provide educational opportunities for archivists in Montana. Among other activities, the grant will allow SHRAB to offer four scholarships for professional development: two to attend the Northwest Archivists conference and two to attend the Montana History Conference. For more information, contact Molly Kruckenberg at 406-444-7482 or mkruckenberg@state.mt.us.



Montana Heritage Project students Derrick Mikesell, Brenton Green, and Patrick Wendler interview Bob Starkel of Ronan about his experiences while stationed at Chu Lai, Vietnam. Photo by Christa Umphrey.

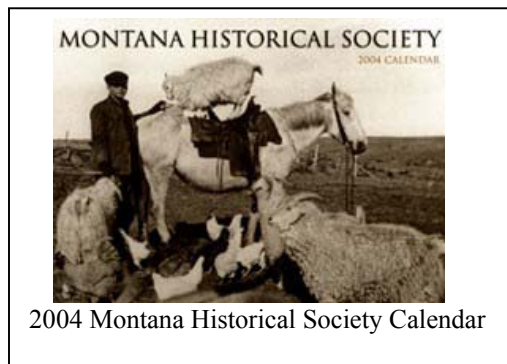
The Montana Heritage Project currently seeks **applications** from Montana teachers to **become Heritage Project affiliates**. The Heritage Project encourages students to conduct primary source research on community issues. The new affiliate program will enable high school teachers to receive resources, support, and recognition for completing a local studies oral history project that culminates in a gift of scholarship to the community. Using Library of Congress Veterans' History Project materials, Project participants during the 2004-5 school year will explore how the Vietnam War changed Montana and America. Applications to become a Montana Heritage Project affiliate are due March 1, 2004. For additional information, see the Project's website, <http://edheritage.org/vets/AffiliatesHome.htm>, or call Education Director Marcella Sherfy, 406-444-1759.

With the help of Montana's Office of Public Instruction, one of the society's Thursday evening lectures is **now available for online viewing**. The presentation by Ellen Baumler, "The Making of a Good Woman: Montana and the National Florence Crittenton Mission," is based on Baumler's recent article in the Winter 2003 issue of Montana The Magazine of Western History. To view the video,

go to www.opi.state.mt.us/streamer/MakingGoodWoman/ or follow the links from the Society's home page at www.montanahistoricalsociety.org.

Over 200 people attended the **Thirtieth Annual Montana History Conference** in Helena. The conference kicked off with workshops for educators, local historians, and preservationists, followed by a keynote address on Montana's geography at the time of Lewis and Clark by Dr. Daniel Botkin. Other highlights included a popular presentation by Dr. Jack Horner on the history of paleontology in Montana, Gene Allen's talk on Montana photographer L. A. Huffman, and the shared stories of "war brides," women who came to Montana after marrying servicemen during World War II. We look forward to seeing everyone this year in Whitefish, October 28-30, 2004!

The Montana Historical Society and its Board of Trustees are seeking **public comment** on proposed fee increases for admission to the museum and Original Governor's Mansion and for guided State Capitol tours. The Society will hold a public hearing Monday, January 21, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. in its auditorium across from the State Capitol in Helena. Like other state agencies, the Society suffered severe cuts during the last legislative session: "These proposed fee increases will not solve our financial needs," Society Board of Trustees President Ed Henrich explained, "but it is a step we can take to help ourselves." The proposed changes include increasing the adult entry fee to \$5 for entrance into the Museum. Fees for children and student groups will remain the same and any increases would not take effect until May 15, 2004. Of course, members always free admission. The full proposal is available on our website, www.montanahistoricalsociety.org. To access it, select "Find & Use," and then select "News." To submit written comments, e-mail gashmore@state.mt.us write to the MHS Director's Office, PO Box 201201, Helena MT 59620, or call 406-444-1799.



It's not too late to order the **2004 Montana Historical Society calendar**. When you do, you'll enjoy over a dozen unique and rare images from the MHS Photograph collection. As an added bonus, each month provides a list of the significant historical events that have shaped Montana history. The calendar, which measures 11" x 8-1/2", is only \$7.95, plus shipping. Calendars can be purchased from the Museum Store by calling 800-243-9900.

The Society participated for the first time in a Helena holiday tradition: the Inter Mountain Children's Home annual Festival of Trees. Designer Jeff Lovely paid \$1,000 to sponsor the Society's tree, which staff members Sharon McCabe, Jodie Foley, Ramona Jacobson, and Ellen Baumler decorated. This year's Festival theme was "Wish Upon a Star." MHS designers titled their creation "**History Runs Through It: Stars of our Past.**" Portraits of prominent Montanans framed in stars of shiny Oro y Plata were the main feature. Golden blossoms symbolized Montana's growth while royal blue and gold Montana flags nestled among the evergreen branches. Auctioned during the event, the Society's tree raised \$4,800 for Inter Mountain Children's Home, the most money raised through sale of a single tree. At the same time, the tree beautifully showcased Montana's history while bringing the Society positive publicity.

Building design review was the focus of the annual Certified Local Government meeting, sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office and held in Helena on October 23, 2003. Local preservation commissioners, officers, and guests shared experience with design guidelines, local historic registers, and demolition ordinances. Intended to assist in the preservation of historic buildings and community heritage, design review standards also have been found to benefit communities by improving housing, helping with economic development and revitalization, and enhancing tourism. Although opponents criticize the process as cumbersome, meeting participants estimated that Montana's local preservation commissions approve 70 to 95 percent of design review applications their first review. Well-crafted ordinances, clearly defined design guidelines, consistent review, and good communication were described as the key elements for a successful design review program.



Former volunteer and long-time friend of the Society Jean Baucus donated a magnificent collection of **Indian artifacts** in December 2003. Mrs. Baucus's grandfather Henry Sieben collected the majority of artifacts around 1900 while living on the Diamond Ranch near Culbertson. The objects are primarily Hidatsa, Sioux, and Cree. Of particular note is a porcupine-quilled shirt from Fort Berthold made about 1870. Despite its age, the colors are vibrant and the shirt is in excellent condition. Also noteworthy are a pair of beaded moccasins made for Bernice Sieben in 1911 in Helena. Of Cree design, they probably represent work of "landless Indians" living near Helena while waiting for the establishment of a reservation.

Calendar

All events will be held at the Montana Historical Society, 225. North Roberts St., Helena

March Lecture Series on Montana Photography and Film—\$5.00/lecture or \$20 for all five

The Friends of the Montana Historical Society sponsor the annual March Lecture Series to raise money for special projects at the Society. The series will be held Wednesdays in the MHS Boo Auditorium from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

March 3: Gene Allen, "Selected Images from the L.A. Huffman Collection"

March 10: Lory Morrow, "Treasures from the Montana Historical Society Historic Photograph Collection"

March 17: Mike Gurnett, "Wildlife Cinematography"

March 24: John Twiggs, "Using Historical Photographs in Documentary Film"

March 31: Tom Ferris and J. M. Cooper, "Contemporary Montana Photography"

Thursday Nights at the Society

All Thursday night programs are free and open to the public.

January 29, 6:30 p.m.: Kick-off of "Pages in History": A Monthly Montana Book Discussion

February 5, 7:00 p.m.: Charlene Porsild and Ellie Arguimbau, "Getting Started on Genealogy: An Introduction to Family History at the MHS Research Center"

February 12, 7:00 p.m.: Kate Hampton, "History of the Montana Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building"

February 19, 7:00 p.m.: Casey Pallister, "'Montana Oiye': The Journey of a Japanese American from the Big Sky to the Battlefields of Europe"

February 26, 6:30 p.m.: "Pages in History: A Monthly Montana Book Discussion"—Mildred Walker's Winter Wheat

March 4, 7:00 p.m.: Charlene Porsild and Ellie Arguimbau, "New Genealogical Resources: An Advanced Workshop for Genealogists at the MHS Research Center"

March 11, 7:00 p.m.: Rich Aarstad, "Definitions of Discovery in the Corps of Discovery"

March 18, 7:00 p.m.: Zena Beth McGalashan, "The Challenge of Resting in Peace in Butte, 1866-1910"

March 25, 6:30 p.m.: "Pages in History: A Monthly Montana Book Discussion"

Winter Hours

Montana's Museum and Museum Store

Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday evening, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

Closed Sundays, Mondays and Holidays

Original Governor's Mansion and Capitol Tours

By appointment. Call 406-444-4789 for more information.

Admission Fees

\$3 per adult, \$1 per child. Discounts available for families, tour groups, and members.

Research Center:

Library and Archives: Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

Photograph Archives: Tuesday-Friday, 1 p.m.- 5 p.m.
Closed weekends, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.